

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C. – This week Congressman Wilson wrote to residents to tell them about federal coupons that will minimize the cost of the upcoming switch to digital television (DTV) for low-income households.

A copy of the letter follows:

January 18, 2008

Dear Friends,

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog format and a national switch to digital television (DTV) will commence and television as we know it will end. I want to make sure that you have the information you need to make an easy transition to DTV.

Soon consumers will be able to purchase a DTV converter box that plugs into an existing analog television set and will allow continued free television reception; and there's federal help available to purchase these boxes. As of January 1st, the federal government began accepting applications to provide households up to two \$40 coupons that can be used toward the purchase of these converter boxes, which are expected to cost between \$50 and \$75. The boxes will be available at retail stores that sell electronic equipment.

This DTV transition, mandated by Congress, will ultimately provide all consumers with a variety of benefits, including more and higher-quality broadcast television programming, as well as enhanced public safety communications and more robust wireless service offerings.

Television sets connected to a service provider like cable or satellite should not be affected and will continue to receive broadcast programming after that date. However, television sets that are not connected to cable, satellite, a telephone company television service provider or do not have a built-in digital tuner, will need a converter box to continue receiving broadcast television signals after the transition occurs.

Prior to the February 2009 transition date, consumers who do not subscribe to cable or satellite television, but who receive free, broadcast-only TV reception will have three options to navigate the DTV transition:

1. Purchase a set-top converter box that will convert the digital signal into analog for an existing television set;
2. Purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner;
3. Subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company television service provider, in which case analog sets will continue to function.

To apply for the \$40 coupons to help defray the cost of the converter boxes consumers can call 888-DTV-2009 (888-388-2009) or can apply directly at www.DTV2009.gov.

If you would like to learn more about my work in Washington and at home in Ohio, please visit my website at <http://charliewilson.house.gov/> where you will find the latest news, events and information about my constituent services. You can also sign up for my e-newsletter to receive periodic updates on important issues and services for your family.

Sincerely,
Charlie Wilson
Member of Congress